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ABSTRACT

This book explores the history of American higher education through examination of the voluntary higher education associations organized during the turn of the century: the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations (AACES), the Association of American Colleges (AAC), The Association of American Universities (AAU), the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of Land-Grant Colleges (ALGC), the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities (ALGCU), and the National Association of State Universities (NASU). In particular the study looks at the process by which colleges and universities banded together at the national level, what motivated them, what organizations they created, how these entities developed, and what purposes they served. Nine chapters are interspersed with six "interludes," each tracing the annual meetings of one of the associations highlighted in the study and intending to convey the flavor of each group. The nine thematic chapters look at the beginning of the movement to form associations, the process of diversification as institutions sought to develop their own identities, the transition to formal bureaucracies, the development of national standards, the development of philanthropic efforts, influence over legislation, war-time developments, and the post-war era. An index and extensive references for each chapter and interlude are included. (JB)

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